

NEWS RELEASE
11/01/93

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ISTOOK MOB-FIGHTING EFFORT SIGNED INTO LAW

One of the first initiatives undertaken by Oklahoma Congressman Ernest Istook, (R-5th District), is now signed into law. President Bill Clinton has signed the appropriations legislation for Treasury, Postal Service and General Government, which contains language inserted by Congressman Istook.

The Congressman called for dedicating more money within the funding given to the Internal Revenue Service to combat mob-organized diesel fuel tax evasion.

"This is a cost-effective way to fight crime," Istook said.

"For every dollar that goes into enforcement from other IRS functions, we can recover up to 56 dollars in lost tax revenues."

Istook made the original proposal to dedicate funding for IRS undercover and investigative operations to fight black-market sales of tax-free diesel fuel. By his signature, the President approved the dedication of another \$6 million for those operations. **"This move targets the mob and organized crime, who cost state and federal government up to \$4 billion in lost tax revenue."**

"I am happy that members of the Appropriations Committee worked so hard, and in a bipartisan effort, to accomplish this," Istook concluded.

Industry officials praise the action, as Petroleum Marketer's Association Executive Vice-President Phil Chisolm called it, "great news for legitimate marketers everywhere."

"Ultimately, the answer to successfully combatting excise tax evasion lies in stepped-up enforcement, and this additional funding will greatly help in that effort," Chisolm said.

The President of the National Association of Truck Stop Operators gave similar praise.

"We hold Istook's efforts as the foremost reason for the passage of this legislation," NATSO President Dewey Clower said. **"NATSO, which represents America's travel plazas and truck stops, has always supported a high degree of tax compliance in the diesel industry. This will go a long way to assure that."**